

## IRISH CHARACTER SKETCHES.

## The Bird Catcher.

Whatever it is in other countries, the bird catcher in my young days in Ireland was a profession. I believe some people in this country follow the trade but their ambition never soars any higher than the sparrows, and a hard life such must have if what a dear friend told me about on yesterday is correct.

"There are these darned sparrows," he angrily remarked, "destroying my grass plot," and, rushing for his gun, he found when he had returned the sparrows gone. Laying down the air gun on the table, he sat brooding philosophically for a time. It was on the cuteness of sparrows, for these words of his settled it:

"Look here, on yesterday I put some strychnine on bread crumbs and placed these crumbs outside there for the sparrows to eat, and would you believe it, they never touched a bit of it."

"Yes, I would," I answered, "for I'd believe anything about sparrows only this, that you'd never make a fortune catching them. You may shoot an odd one by accident now and again, but otherwise you are only losing your time unless you would try this means."

"What means?" and he leaned anxiously forward as he put the question.

"You sing like them; why not endeavor to captivate them by your song?"

"Get," and reaching for a book to fling at me, I made good my escape while he fashioned up in his mind a horror chamber for sparrows.

A bird catcher, as I have stated, was a profession in Ireland in my young days, and Jack Sealy stood at the top-most rung of it. A small, wizened man Jack was, with a cast in his left eye and with only one arm, the other he lost while a young boy, having caught it in a piece of machinery. I suppose it was the loss of his arm that forced Jack to take up the profession of bird catcher. Anyway, he made a good living by means of it. He always seemed to be as happy as a lark, and as he made his way to the haunts of the birds with his paraphernalia tied on his back, singing snatches of songs as he went, you felt inclined to envy him his open life with the trees and streams, the green fields and the mountains around him. When Jack arrived at a likely place for birds, he laid his paraphernalia aside and sat down and then old Rube the hunter never scanned the prairies with such a searching eye as Jack scanned the fields and heavens. He never thought of setting his nets and birdline sticks until he was sure of birds, but once he saw a lark or plover he jumped to his feet and unrolling his nets, he set them on the ground, always careful of placing a decoy bird in the center of them. Having completed these arrangements, he withdrew to some shelter close by, and there crouching down, he would remain often for hours in the same attitude, no matter what kind the weather was. When he saw a flock of birds, especially plovers, hovering a distance away, he would give vent to a peculiar whistle, an exact imitation, and the birds attracted by the sound, would soar over the nets, and seeing the decoy bird resting on a nice greenward, they would swoop down to the ground, only to get entangled in the nets, and often Jack would capture as many as fifty birds in one haul. I have often seen Jack spend whole days in the depth of winter down in the marshy lands in the shade of a fir, and how he was not frozen with the cold passes my comprehension. The doctor and Father Denis, the curate, were good customers of Jack's. Whenever they went shooting and met with no success, Jack would make it a point to be somewhere on their way home, and then such a conversation as this would ensue:

"Begad, yer riverence, yerself an' the doctor had a bad day."

"Yes, Jack, unfortunately we came upon no birds."

"It's too coward, yer riverence, for them to be stirrin', but, anyway, I'm sorry yer goin' home empty handed, an' I know, Father Tom, God bless him, will be disappointed at yer goin' home wud wan hand as long as the other."

"How do you know that, Jack?"

"He told me the last time I was talkin' to him. He was complainin' me on me gannus for ketchin' birds, an' he sez to me, 'yer as good, Jack, wud the nets as me curate is wud the gun; the best shot in the country, an' niver a day that he goes out but he brings in a half a dozen or so of birds, an' the doctor the same, so yer must live up to yer reputashun.'"

"You are a great rogue, Jack."

"Troth, I'm anything but that, yer riverence, an' I'm only now anxious for yer reputashun, an' because I am I have half a dozen or good birds tied up for such of yer. Father Denis, an' me, know but that yer shoi thin, an' me, know than have yer go home empty handed, I'm willin' to give them for nothin'."

"There, by the Great Frederic," there and the doctor through Jack twice the value of the birds, "only I'm giving a dinner on Thursday and my guests like variety—I would not take them, a shooting man, Sealy, you know never like snared birds."

"Oh! I know yer honor is a born sportsman, an' I wudn't press me birds on yer, only I wudn't like to have the people say that yer couldn't hit a hay cock, an' sayin' it they'd be iv I let yer go home empty handed."

"Many a purchase the good, dear doctor made from Jack, and well he paid the latter for it. Jack knew the doctor's weakness to a mummy, and after the doctor's long shooting trips Jack would plant himself somewhere in the doctor's way home and dispose of his birds at double the market price. Jack lived alone in a little cottage on the barren below the tailor's house. He cared not for company, and at night he never left his own home.

"I don't want any company," he would say, "for in the daytime I have me birds, an' in the night I have me pinny readings."

Many an evening I have stolen down to Jack's house after my supper, and, entering in, I found Jack seated on a stool reading T. D. Sullivan's works by the light of a candle, which was placed on the hob. He needed no my entrance, only pointed with his finger to another stool and continued reading. When he had the poem or story read, he would look at me over his spectacles, and then fixing them more firmly on his nose he would say:

"Listen to this, avic machree, for it's grate int'resting," and then he would read for me in a strong voice what he himself had just finished reading.

When he had done, he would close the book, and fixing his eyes on the fire for a few minutes he would moralize with himself in a low tone. The moralizing fit would always end up by his turning to me with these words on his lips:

"Avic achree, what do yer intind to be?"

I remember I used to answer, "Either a doctor or a lawyer," which answer always roused Jack's anger, for, rising from his seat, he would place his hand upon my shoulder and sternly say:

"Troth thin, yer wudn't be either iv I can help it, for doctors think no more of cuttin' yer head off than I wud of killin' a dog, an' lawyers are the greatest

rogues this side of Perichio; they have neither soul or body."

Poor Jack Sealy has long ago gone over to the majority. He got a severe wetting and did not care for himself, and as a consequence he developed pneumonia and in two days was dead. We buried him in the little churchyard on the hill. Behind him the broad Atlantic stretches away in the distance, and before him lie the green fields, hills and valleys of dear old Ireland, and above him soars the lark, singing a song, it seems to me, of forgiveness to him who so long waged war upon its kind.

BY CABIN.  
Next week, "The News Agent."

## Latest Irish News

## Cork.

The death is much regretted of Rev. D. Ahearn, Newcestown, County Cork, which has occurred at the early age of 33 years. The deceased had only recently been on the mission in New South Wales, and came home on sick leave.

The laying of the foundation stone of the new parish church at Mogeely, near Middleton, County Cork, was performed on the feast of St. Gregory VII, by the Most Rev. Dr. Browne, Bishop of Cloyne. A procession attended by the local religious societies, the clergy and the public in general, marched to the site of the building, which is dedicated to the Most Sacred Heart. Among the laity present was Captain Donelan, M.P.

## Derry.

The Hon. John Gibbons, who has been the first Catholic appointed as Circuit Judge at Cook county, Illinois, is an Irishman, having been born near Derry. When a boy he used to walk over a mile to attend a night school, and subsequently entered the private academy of Samuel McQuillin at Derry. On going to America he became a student at Notre Dame university, where he finished a four years' course in one year.

## Dublin.

Among those who won diplomas after a three years' course of training and study as nurses at Santa Rosa Infirmary, Texas, were Sister Mary Aquin (Miss O'Neill), Thomas street, Dublin, and Sister Mary Albertina (Graham), Thomas street, Dublin. The Santa Rosa Infirmary diplomas are among the highest standing in the medical world.

## Sligo.

The death is much regretted of Mr. Alex. Simpson, of Rosse's Point, Sligo, who was assistant honorable secretary of the Sligo Gun Club, and was well known in sporting circles in the county. He was son of Mr. James Simpson, shipbuilding engineer, Glasgow.

## Kildare.

Sister Agnes Mathias was at a meeting of the Celbridge Guardians unanimously appointed matron of the workhouse, in the room of Sister Mary Nolan, recently resigned.

## Tipperary.

Sister Mary Pauline died recently in St. Francis Xavier's convent of Mercy, Providence, R. I., the mother house of the Sisters of Mercy in Rhode Island. She was born in Clonmel, County Tipperary, Ireland, in 1836, and was a daughter of Thomas Dorney, a co-laborer and intimate friend of Daniel O'Connell and Mary Russell. At the age of 17 Miss Dorney accepted the invitation of Rev. Mother Bernard, who was on a visit to Ireland, to return with her to America. Miss Dorney donned the cap and cape of the postulant of the Order of Mercy in the Convent of Mercy, Dublin, in which the order was established by Mother Catherine McAuley, and in a short time afterward came to America, where she received the habit.

## Westmeath.

The death is announced from Riverview, Australia, of the Rev. Joseph Tuile, S. J. The deceased clergyman, who was 72 years of age, was a native of Mullingar, and spent fifty years in the Jesuit Order, the first twenty-five teaching in the various colleges of the Society in Ireland, and the latter in Australia. His brother, the late Rev. James Tuile, S. J., was for some time a Provincial in the same Order.

## Wexford.

The profession has taken place at the Convent of St. John of God, Wexford, of Sr. M. E. McCartney, Leige, County Monaghan, Sister Mary M. O'Brien, Alcamon, County Wexford, and Sister Mary Conleth Kelly, Tallow, and Sister Mary L. Ryan, Cullohill, County Tipperary. The reception took place of Miss Annie White, Ennisconry, Miss B. Quilter, Seahaghten, County Kerry; Miss K. Lyons, Cooltras, Brures; Miss J. Shanahan, Cromhart, Tipperary. Most Rev. Dr. Browne presided at the ceremonies, and Very Rev. Dean Kavanaugh, P. P., V. Y. G., New Ross, officiated. The death is much regretted in County Wexford of Mr. Patrick Codd, J. P., Ballyregan, a member of the old County Wexford Independent club, and of the Land League organization. There was an extremely large attendance at his funeral.

## Wicklow.

In the presence of a large assembly of mourners the burial took place of Mrs. Mary Fogarty of Ballykilmurray, Hacketstown. The Office for the repose of her soul was held at Hacketstown, and was attended by upwards of forty priests.

The Irish Society of America has been recently formed in New York for the purpose of studying and making known the work of the Irish genius in religion, history, literature and art, in ancient and modern Ireland and in other lands, particularly America.

The materials for a knowledge of the past of the Irish race are abundant and accessible. The great Gaelic manuscripts have been printed and translated. There is a facsimile of the "Book of Leinster," the splendid record of the early bardic writers by the bishop of Kildare in 1160 A. D. The Latin gospel, called "The Book of Kells," with which, for beauty of execution, no other book in any part of the world can compare, written before 790 A. D., illustrate in unfaded colors the art of illumination. The Gaelic "Annals of the Four Masters," which show that Ireland has an ancient and authentic history, incomparably richer than that of any other North European country, England included, have been translated and commented on.

The society celebrated Moore's birthday on May 25 by a concert held in the Carnegie Chamber Music hall, selected from the celebrated "Irish Melodies." Among the artists who appeared were Mrs. Ellen O'Donnell, Bernard O'Don-

nell, Miss Loretta De Lone, harpist, and Walter Bogert.

On the evening of June 6 the society celebrated St. Columba's day by a dinner at the Hotel St. Denis, New York. Addresses, illustrated by stereopticon, were given on aspects of the saint's life. The following are the officers of the society: President, Charles Johnston; vice presidents, Hon. Morgan J. O'Brien, J. I. C. Clarke, Rt. Rev. Mgr. Charles N. McCready, Dr. Francis J. Quinlan, James Byrne, James O'Flaherty, Dr. James F. Power and Mrs. Thomas H. Kelly; treasurer, M. W. Flynn; secretary, Francis J. Hogan.

Both ladies and gentlemen are eligible to membership.

When the blithe winds to and fro  
Rock the softly tinted cradles  
Where the fruited orchards grow,  
All the breezes wafting perfume  
O'er wide fields of drifting snow.

Snow of summer and of flowers,  
Not the flakes of featherly chill  
Once that filled the sleeping hollows,  
Rounded out each watching hill;  
Snow of summer and of flowers,  
Acres of it, where you will.

Hidden deep among the petals,  
Even from eyes that love her best,  
Many a patient little mother  
Broods beneath her beating breast  
Wings and songs that wait their rap-  
turous flight when they flutter near.

Oh! the white world of the blossoms,  
Where the sweet winds to and fro  
Softly, softly, rock the cradles,  
Swing high and swinging low,  
Cradles of the fruited orchards  
In the blossoms' tinted snow.

Says Mr. Jawback-Gee, but you women think it's awful to be an old maid, don't you?

Answers Mrs. J., right off the reel—  
Yes, it would appear so, to look at the dubs we marry to escape it!—Cleveland Leader.

"What sort of government do you think the Turkish parliament could best imitate?"

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Rube Pender, St. Anthony, Ida.  
Lyrum Benson, Taylorville, Utah.  
Mrs. Anna Behle, City.  
N. Butkovich, City.  
Erickson Bros., Murray, Utah.  
Cosgriff & Couzens, Boulder, Colo.  
Miller Caloon Co., Murray, Utah.  
Dr. B. W. Mather, Mountain Home, Ida.  
K. S. Sims, Kaysville, Utah.  
Cullen Hotel, City.  
T. H. Nott, grocer, City.  
E. E. Horst, Kingston, Ida.  
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